

## **Rules of the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN)**

### ***Preamble***

The European Young Chemists' Network (hereafter referred to as "EYCN") is the younger members division of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS).

### ***§1 Aims and Tasks***

The EYCN aims to provide a platform within the EuChemS framework where young chemists can:

- a. Contribute to a united voice in science, education and politics – with specific focus on chemistry and molecular sciences - and have their opinions represented throughout Europe;
- b. Network with each other to form a supportive community throughout Europe;
- c. Forge new links and strengthen old links to facilitate the discussion of common interests between academics and industrialists;
- d. Generate and expand upon new ideas and initiatives in order to contribute to the future of science and the development of a European society;
- e. Contribute to improving the popular image of chemistry among the general public, therefore enforcing the public awareness of chemistry as a tool to solve societal problems;
- f. Have their needs and opinions brought to the attention of the EuChemS Executive Board and aim for an equal say in EuChemS initiatives and programmes.

### ***§2 Membership***

EYCN membership exists on an organisational and on an individual level:

- a. Young members of any EuChemS member society (as defined by their national criteria) are members of the EYCN;
- b. Member societies of the EYCN are bodies representing young chemists of EuChemS member societies;

- c. Affiliate member societies are societies that work closely with the EYCN but that are not a part of the EuChemS framework;
- d. Affiliate members are members of affiliate member societies;
- e. Delegates are individual members representing a member or affiliate member society;
- f. Member societies of the EYCN which have resigned as EuChemS member societies will automatically become affiliate member societies of the EYCN.
- g. EYCN alumni are former members of the EYCN general assembly.

### **§3 Institutions of the EYCN**

The structure of the EYCN consists of a general assembly (hereafter called Delegate Assembly), a Board and a Steering Committee.

#### **§3.1 Delegate Assembly**

##### **§3.1.1 Definition and structure**

The Delegate Assembly fulfils the role of general assembly for the EYCN.

- a. The Delegate Assembly (DA) is the highest organisational body of the EYCN;
- b. The DA is open to all members. Every society within EuChemS will be invited to appoint up to two delegates to represent their respective society within the EYCN. To ensure that the DA is a diverse body representing the member societies, no member society should be represented by more than two members. This suggestion does not apply to invited guests or invited EYCN alumni, however, the organization team is asked to take these factors into consideration;
- c. The DA will meet at least once a year in an independent EYCN event. The announcement of the Delegate Assembly will be made at least six weeks in advance of the date. It will consist of at least a tentative agenda, date and place of the DA;
- d. The voting body of the DA consists of a single official representative for each of the member societies of the EYCN. A delegate may only cast one vote. Each member society may choose to be represented by another delegate through written authorisation. The authorisation must be written and delivered at least 24 hours to the DA and addressed to the Chair of the EYCN. For a vote to be valid there is a quorum of 40% of the member

societies of the EYCN. The vote will be decided by majority. In the case of a rule change, the quorum will be raised to two thirds of the member societies.

### **§3.1.2 Role and responsibilities**

The Delegate Assembly has the mandate to:

- a. Decide on the acceptance of new member or affiliate member societies by a majority vote of the delegates during the DA, at which time the new member may be granted voting rights;
- b. Evaluate the annual report and decide on the general strategy of the EYCN;
- c. Decide by majority voting on the need to instate the different Board functions (§3.2), number and responsibilities of teams (§3.3);
- d. Elect the Board by secret ballot. A diverse and equal representation of the different member societies is strived for. No member society may be represented by more than two delegates in the Board (§3.2). Voting is done by simple majority. Upon staking of the votes, a single revote is cast. If a single revote offers no solution, decision is made by fate; e.g. by coin toss;
- e. Change the "Rules of the European Young Chemists' Network" by a 2/3 majority vote.

### **§3.2 Board**

- a. The Board of the EYCN consists of a minimum of four (4) and maximum of nine (9) members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and up to five (5) team leaders. The DA may decide not to instate each of these functions if judged unneeded and may choose to have two or more roles fulfilled by the same person. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are defined as in the EuChemS regulations. Team leaders are defined in §3.3.
- b. Members of the Board are directly elected by the DA and serve for two years. Voluntary resignation of a Board member is possible by sending a written demission with a notice of six (6) weeks, to the Secretary. Upon resignation of a member, responsibilities are taken over by other Board members:
  - a. Vice-Chair replaces the Chair
  - b. Secretary or Treasurer replaces the Vice-Chair
  - c. Team leaders may take up the role of Secretary or Treasurer on an interim basis but this should be ratified by the DA.

Board members may be elected for a second, but not for a third, consecutive term. The Chair may only serve a single term, but will be expected to serve as an advisor for the consecutive term, i.e. they are expected to serve for a further two years as an advisor to the SC. The Chair must represent a different country every term.

- c. Forced resignation of a Board member will proceed after a meeting of a minimum of 40% of the delegates of the member societies. This can occur between the annual DA at an Extraordinary Delegate Assembly, online if necessary. The vote will be decided by a simple majority.
- d. The Board directly advises the DA and is responsible for the network's management and the execution of the general strategy of the EYCN.
- e. The Board prepares the annual report and the agenda for the next DA.
- f. The Board may consult the DA electronically for input and advice, including a request for voting, if circumstances require.
- g. The Board votes by simple majority. Upon staking of the votes, the Chair decides.

### **§3.3 Teams**

The DA has the right to instate topical teams with well-specified responsibilities.

- a. These teams are instated for 2 years and may be reinstated indefinitely;
- b. Each team is headed by a team leader. Team leaders are directly elected by the DA. Team leaders may be elected for a second, but not third term;
- c. A team is responsible for the performance and oversight of specific tasks of the EYCN as decided upon by the DA;
- d. Team leaders will represent their team on the Board and in the Steering Committee;
- e. The teams consist of the delegates of the member societies, EYCN alumni (see §3.5) and additional representatives of the member societies;
- f. Any member society can nominate up to two (2) additional representatives working in the EYCN's teams.

### **§3.4 Steering Committee**

- a. The Steering Committee (SC) will comprise of the Board and advisory members. Advisory members are appointed by majority vote by the Board;
- b. In the absence of the Chair, another Board member will act as chair of the SC (analogous to §3.2.B);
- c. Each member of the SC shall represent a national society and the diversity of the EYCN shall be reflected in the SC. A diverse representation of the different member societies is strived for but not mandatory;
- d. The SC is authorised to amend the rules to incorporate any changes required by the EuChemS Executive Committee;
- e. The SC decides on the team composition, strategy, annual plan and member composition;
- f. The SC votes by simple majority. Upon staking of the votes, the Chair decides.

### **§3.5 EYCN Alumni**

Former members of the DA have the option of staying on as a member of the EYCN Alumnus programme: EYCN Dino.

The alumni have the option to join one of the EYCN teams or participate in EYCN events. They may also participate in the annual Delegate Assemblies and in SC meetings in an advisory capacity.

### **§4 Resources**

- a. Resources should be sought from industry, societies, organisations, individuals or government bodies;
- b. Each team will be responsible for fundraising for their respective projects and will coordinate with a designated Board member regarding contracts, invoices, etc., with sponsors and supporters;
- c. Invoices in the name of the EYCN are issued by the Chair only after approval from the EuChemS Treasurer;
- d. The Board will report the financial situation of the EYCN at the Delegate Assembly;
- e. All resources raised will be used solely for activities of the EYCN in a manner approved by the SC;
- f. The EYCN will not retain any assets.